

and its award-winning roster of teachers place a premium on professional development. The school goes the extra mile to ensure that 100 percent of the student body participates in co-curricular activities and that the pervading climate is one of trust, purpose, and dignity. This focus also helps create an atmosphere where consensus and collaboration are the order of the day and where parents are actively engaged in the learning process of their children.

I cannot underscore enough just how instrumental schools like Orono Middle School are to the overall progress of our tremendous State of Maine and indeed in brightening the horizons of this great land we love. What American and Maine political icon, U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith, once expressed in words Orono Middle School has demonstrated in action; namely, that “education is not a means to life but education is life and must not be ignored.”

Orono Middle School has my very best wishes on receiving the National Blue Ribbon School designation this year which could not be more well-deserved.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1264. An act to designate the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building located at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the “M.D. Anderson Plaza” and to authorize the placement of a historical/identification marker on the grounds recognizing the achievements and philanthropy of M.D. Anderson.

H.R. 2668. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 384. An act to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

At 3:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 443. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska.

H.R. 886. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Nation's first Federal law enforcement agency, the United States Marshals Service.

H.R. 2719. An act to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes.

H.R. 3659. An act to reauthorize the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 443. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Maniilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 2668. An act to designate the station of the United States Border Patrol located at 2136 South Naco Highway in Bisbee, Arizona, as the “Brian A. Terry Border Patrol Station”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 2719. An act to ensure public access to the summit of Rattlesnake Mountain in the Hanford Reach National Monument for educational, recreational, historical, scientific, cultural, and other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3659. An act to reauthorize the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families through fiscal year 2012, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 3094. An act to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4315. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Review Group, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Farm Loan Programs Loan Making Activities” (RIN0560-AI03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4316. A communication from the Management Analyst, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementation of Regulations Required Under Title XI of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008; Suspension of Delivery of Birds, Additional Capital Investment Criteria, Breach of Contract, and Arbitration” (RIN0580-AB07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4317. A communication from the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards and Specifications for Timber Products Acceptable for Use by Rural Utilities Service Electric and Telecommunications Borrowers” (7 CFR Parts 1728 and 1755) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4318. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Butyl acrylate-methacrylic acid-styrene polymer; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 9327-6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4319. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Hexythiazox; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9327-7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 14, 2011; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4320. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of two (2) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half), in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4321. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Suspension of Community Eligibility” (44 CFR Part 64)(Docket No. FEMA-2011-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 12, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4322. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Addition of Certain Persons to the Entity List; and Implementation of Entity List Annual Review Changes” (RIN0694-AF46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 13, 2011; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4323. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Turkey; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4324. A communication from the Chair, U.S. Sentencing Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the